

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 IO-13 USIA-06
COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 L-03 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EAGR, IT, OECD

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
(IFAD): ITALIAN APPROACH ON VOTING PROCEDURES

REF: (A) ROME 2421 (B) ROME 1488 (C) ROME 1329

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) (MINGAZZINI, OFFICE
DIRECTOR FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) ON MARCH 1
ONCE AGAIN REMINDED EMBASSY THAT GOI IS AWAITING RESPONSE
TO ITS AIDE MEMOIRE OF JAN. 24 (REF B); SPECIFICALLY, AN
INDICATION OF USG POSITION RE (A) TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS
AMONG CATEGORY I COUNTRIES ON MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED
AT APRIL PREPARATORY COMMISSION MEETING AND (B) GOI PROPOSAL
TO SEEK MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE 35, PARA 3, TO INSURE
SECRET VOTE ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS OF "PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE".
IN RESPONSE, EMBOFF NOTED THAT SITUATION HAS CHANGED SUB-
STANTIALLY DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF IRANIAN OFFER TO HOST
APRIL PREPCOM AND INDICATIONS THAT IRANIAN BID FOR IFAD
PERMANENT SITE HAS LOST GROUND AS A RESULT. EMBOFF ALSO
REITERATED USG SUPPORT FOR SECRET VOTE ON SITE AND
PRESIDENCY ISSUES. MFA AGREED THAT IRANIAN ACTIONS HAD
ALTERED SITUATION IN FAVOR OF ROME'S CANDIDACY, BUT NOTED
THAT THE MANY ISSUES REQUIRING CATEGORY I COORDINATION
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REQUIRED A FURTHER MEETING. HE SUGGESTED CONSIDERATION
OF REPEATING THE PARIS MEETING. RE ARTICLE 35 MODIFICATIONS,
MFA REP EXPRESSED RENEWED PLEASURE AT USG SUPPORT BUT HOPED
THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FOCUS ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE
AND ON NEED TO LINE UP SUPPORT WITH THE CATEGORY I COUNTRIES
AND OTHERS.

2. AT THIS POINT, OUR FAILURE TO RESPOND FORMALLY TO GOI AIDE MEMOIRE IS CAUSING GOI SOME CONCERN. GOI LOOKS TO US FOR LEADERSHIP IN THIS AREA -- EVEN WHERE RESPONSIBILITY IS CLEARLY IN OTHER HANDS-- AND DELAY IN OUR RESPONSE MAY BE TAKEN AS SIGNAL OF REDUCED USG INTEREST IN A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN TO GOI.

3. BASED ON EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE, WE PLAN TO RESPOND BY AIDE MEMOIRE EARLY DURING WEEK OF MARCH 7 ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

-- TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS: RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIMING OF CONSULTATIONS DOES NOT LIE WITH USG BUT WITH LEADER OF CATEGORY I, PRIMARILY FRG'S WILL AND AUSTRALIAN FAO REP ALPEN. USG IS WILLING TO MEET AT ANY TIME AGREED TO BY OTHERS AND IN FACT, UNDERSTANDS THAT A MEETING HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR MARCH 17 IN ROME TO DISCUSS CATEGORY I POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN AT PREPCOM.

-- SECRET VOTE: USG REITERATES ITS POSITION THAT THE VOTE ON THE PRESIDENCY AND SITE ISSUES, AND ON IMPORTANT MATTERS GENERALLY, SHOULD BE SECRET. IN THIS CONNECTION AND PRIOR TO MARCH 17 MEETING, USG WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE ANY PROPOSALS -- PARTICULARLY SPECIFIC CHANGES IN WORDING OF ARTICLE 35 -- THAT GOI MAY WISH TO PUT FORWARD TO ASSURE THIS END.

4. IF DEPARTMENT HAS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE SPECIFIC MODIFICATIONS TO ARTICLE 35, EMBASSY WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEINGABLE TO SHARE OUR REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS WITH GOI. PLEASE ADVISE.BEAUDRY

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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